Strata
Scott McLaughlin (Nov. 2021)

clarinet with 'punctured' barrel (three holes).[1]
For Carlos Cordeiro

With one barrel hole uncovered.

Beginning with a monophonic tone, play continuous ascending and descending scales (starting on low E or F), quietly and not too rapid.

Be mindful of places in the scale where the pitch makes unexpected registral leaps, or becomes multiphonic (however subtle). Once a break is noticed, shorten the scales and hone-in on the break, coming to rest on the fingering where it breaks…

…with this fingering play a slow multiphonic that holds the break in balance for a long still moment. [As this section repeats (below) and continues to unfold, the slow multiphonics may be played a few times in succession and explored with changes of embouchure.]

Keeping the terminator hole[2] of that fingering open, repeat the above; return to the continuous ascending and descending scales until a new break is found. Repeat the whole process until so many holes are open that the process becomes impractical; i.e. there is no more significant variation. Once this point is reached, pause and remove another barrel plug, then repeat the process.

With two, then three, barrel holes uncovered, repeat the process as above.

Once the process is complete and all holes unplugged, an optional closing section:
- Remove the barrel+mouthpiece, and put the rest of the clarinet aside.
- With one hand, completely cover the open end of the barrel. With the other play a short and quiet chorale by opening and closing barrel holes like an ocarina, supporting multiphonics if they emerge.

[1] Where the barrel has had holes drilled in the side to act as vents. For this piece, the holes should be discrete/non-intersecting, with a bore of c.7–8mm (the size of most finger holes in the main joints). The holes should be sealed using small corks or bluetack.
[2] The terminator hole is the highest open hole of the clarinet (excluding the barrel holes), where the chalumeau pitch emerges.

Punctured Barrel

In this version, the barrel has three holes drilled in it to match the size of standard finger-holes along the main joints (6.0–7.5mm). The holes are plugged with cork until needed. The punctured barrel can be supplied by the composer on request, or the performer can make their own.

